

Appl. No. 09/673,185

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A tampon comprising a rolled up web of absorbent material having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers looped around the web, wherein the tampon is compressed in a manner that essentially pleats the web and the removal cord has an extensibility of greater than about 25 percent to prevent damage to the cord during ~~manufacture~~ compression.

Claim 2. (original) The tampon of claim 1, wherein the cord extensibility is from about 30 to about 200 percent.

Claim 3. (original) The tampon of claim 2 wherein the cord extensibility is from about 40 to about 60 percent.

Claim 4. (original) The tampon of claim 1 wherein the synthetic fibers are textured.

C | Claim 5. (original) The tampon of claim 4 wherein the texture is helical.

Claim 6. (original) The tampon of claim 4 wherein the texture is zigzag.

Claim 7. (original) The tampon of claim 1 wherein the removal cord comprises from about 8 to about 25 cables.

Claim 8. (original) The tampon of claim 7 wherein each cable comprises from about 30 to about 200 fibers.

Claim 9. (original) The tampon of claim 1 wherein the synthetic fibers are nylon.

Claims 10-13. (canceled)

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Claim 14. (currently amended) A tampon comprising a rolled up web of absorbent material having a removal cord comprising synthetic fibers looped around the web, wherein the tampon is compressed in a manner that essentially pleats the web and the removal cord has a two-phase, tensile stress-strain curve having an inflection point between a first and a second phase to prevent damage to the cord during ~~manufacture~~ compression.

Claim 15. (original) The tampon of claim 14 wherein the first phase has a first Young's modulus and the second phase has a second Young's modulus.

Claim 16. (original) The tampon of claim 15 wherein the second Young's modulus is greater than the first Young's modulus.

C | Claim 17. (original) The tampon of claim 14 wherein the synthetic fibers are textured and stress in the first phase extends the synthetic fibers sufficiently to remove the texture.

Claim 18. (original) The tampon of claim 17 wherein the texture is helical.

Claim 19. (original) The tampon of claim 17 wherein the texture is zigzag.

Claim 20. (original) The tampon of claim 14 wherein deformation of the synthetic fibers in the first phase is limited to elastic deformation.

Claim 21. (original) The tampon of claim 14 wherein stress in the second phase is sufficient to impart plastic deformation of the synthetic fibers.

Claim 22. (original) The tampon of claim 14 wherein the synthetic fibers undergo plastic deformation in the second phase.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A tampon of claim 1 wherein the removal cord has an interior portion and an exterior such that the interior portion is contained within the rolled up web of absorbent material.

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C) Claim 24. (previously presented) A tampon of claim 14 wherein the removal cord has an interior portion and an exterior such that the interior portion is contained within the rolled up web of absorbent material.
